

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7299

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening VA Cy-
3 bersecurity Act of 2022” or the “SVAC Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT OF**
5 **INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF DEPARTMENT OF**
6 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agree-
11 ment with a federally funded research and develop-
12 ment center to provide to the Secretary an inde-
13 pendent cybersecurity assessment of—

14 (A) five high-impact information systems
15 of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

16 (B) the effectiveness of the information se-
17 curity program and information security man-
18 agement system of the Department.

19 (2) DETAILED ANALYSIS.—The independent cy-
20 bersecurity assessment provided under paragraph
21 (1) shall include a detailed analysis of the ability of
22 the Department—

23 (A) to ensure the confidentiality, integrity,
24 and availability of the information, information
25 systems, and devices of the Department; and

26 (B) to protect against—

(4) SHADOW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of the use of information technology systems, devices, and services by employees and contractors of the De-

1 partment who do so without the heads of the ele-
2 ments of the Department that are responsible for in-
3 formation technology at the Department knowing or
4 approving of such use.

5 (5) METHODOLOGY.—In conducting the cyber-
6 security assessment to be provided under paragraph
7 (1), the federally funded research and development
8 center shall take into account industry best practices
9 and the current state-of-the-art in cybersecurity
10 evaluation and review.

11 (b) PLAN.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
13 after the date on which an independent assessment
14 is provided to the Secretary by a federally funded re-
15 search and development center pursuant to an
16 agreement entered into under subsection (a), the
17 Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Vet-
18 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and
19 the Senate a plan to address the findings of the fed-
20 erally funded research and development center set
21 forth in such assessment.

22 (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under
23 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Improvements to the security controls
of the information systems of the Department
assessed under subsection (a) to—

4 (i) achieve the goals specified in sub-
5 paragraph (A) of paragraph (2) of such
6 subsection; and

10 (B) Improvements to the information secu-
11 rity program and information security manage-
12 ment system of the Department to achieve such
13 goals and protect against such threats.

14 (C) A cost estimate for implementing the
15 plan.

19 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED
20 STATES EVALUATION AND REVIEW.—Not later than 180
21 days after the date of the submission of the plan under
22 subsection (b)(1), the Comptroller General of the United
23 States shall—

24 (1) commence an evaluation and review of—

1 (A) the independent cybersecurity assess-
2 ment provided under subsection (a); and
3 (B) the response of the Department to
4 such assessment; and
5 (2) provide to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
6 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate
7 a briefing on the results of the evaluation and re-
8 view, including any recommendations made to the
9 Secretary regarding the matters covered by the
10 briefing.

Passed the House of Representatives November 17,
2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.